



# TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

## Office of the Town Manager

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**To:** Honorable Mayor Glenn Singer &  
Town Council Members

**From:** Alexander Diaz,   
Town Manager

**Date:** August 23, 2019

**Subject:** **FY-2019-Significant Accomplishments and Performance Review**

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When I reflect on my almost 13 years as your manager, and I look back at how much this community has grown, I find it amazing what we have been able to accomplish together. This year: we continued to see an increase in home values staying over the Billion Dollar Mark in assessed values for a Town with only 390 buildable lots; we have finally begun work on our much anticipated Canal Maintenance Project; have scheduled milling and resurfacing of Golden Beach Drive, and approved adding a Pickleball Court to our recreational facilities.

During this next fiscal year our primary focus will be preparing to build our New Town Hall as part of our Civic Center Complex Master Plan. It is only appropriate that our upcoming budget serves as our financial blueprint that allows the municipal government to sustain a vibrant Town that builds a sense of community spirit and pride with fiscally responsible government, the highest quality municipal services and infrastructure, a responsive and efficient staff, and innovative leaders who engage our residents.

We remain focused on our mission, vision and strategic priorities though, as we push forward. During the last year we celebrated our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation, with a weeklong schedule of events to commemorate the momentous feat! In addition, we awarded our Irrigation and Landscape Contract to Mainguy Landscaping at a significant savings to residents, while still maintaining the same level of excellent service you are currently provided with.

After reviewing our business practices we have decided to make fundamental changes to our operations moving forward to better serve our residents:

1. We believe that creating a Division of Sustainability within the Office of the Town Manager may be beneficial on a moving forward basis. This is why during the 2019-2020 fiscal year we will prepare a study/white paper on what functions and roles this division can be responsible for. But unlike the case in most cities and town's I do

not believe the concept that Sustainability issues are exclusively related to matters of the environment. Instead, our study will focus on how a new division can focus on both traditional sustainability issues, as well as issues that fall under the umbrella of sustainability such as: Building Community, Maintenance of Infrastructure, Landscaping and Urban scape, Aging Population, Growth, Fiscal Matters, Lifestyle Offerings, Personnel, and managing all liabilities.

2. The Building Department Permitting Process will be going through a third-party evaluation and a new more efficient streamlined process will be recommended for your approval; the firm Calvin, Giordano and Associates, Inc. will be developing our new policies and procedures for our new building department protocols.

3. Code Enforcement as a Division of the Building Department is being abolished.

4. The Police Department will have a new Division of Code Compliance with an emphasis on Compliance. This Division will fall under the responsibility of the Administrative arm of the Agency. But this is not simply a reorganization, it's a complete system overhaul with new policies, a new code and new procedures. NOTHING from Code Enforcement will transfer over, instead we will start from scratch.

Related to Capital Projects we will finalize our Canal Maintenance Project, Road Resurfacing Projects, and add enhancements/modernization to our Fountains at the Strand. But our Priority will be to take the already completed Civic Center Complex Master Plan, issue the Request for Proposals, and Select a Responsible Respondent to Design/Build the elements called for in the Design Criteria Program.

We will commence the implementation of the recommendations found in the A-1-A corridor study, (completed last year) through our maintenance efforts. Also a top priority is for the Town to have a third party inspect and make recommendations on the current state of our more than \$44-Million in Capital Investments we have made during the last decade.

**Our Core Principles for the 2019-2020 fiscal year include:**

- Enhance the security and safety of our residents
- Maintain greater transparency and communication with our Residents
- Embrace the highest standards of service and fiscal stability
- Expand our community engagement through recreational programming
- Strive for an efficient and responsive government

**Our Primary Focus during for the 2019-2020 fiscal year includes:**

- Issue Request for Proposals and Issue Design/Build Award for the Civic Center Complex Master Plan
- Finalize Canal Maintenance Project

- Modernize Fountains at The Strand Entrance to Town
- Finalize A-1-A Corridor Study

Over the past twelve years, the Town of Golden Beach as an entity has been working towards one goal – change. Looking back at FY 2018/2019, it was a year full of milestones and accomplishments for the Town. Here is what it looked like:

The Town completed the following Capital Improvement Projects consisting of:

- ✓ Developed design criteria for the Civic Center Master Plan. Administration worked with residents and the Council to refine the design criteria, which will be put together as part of a bid proposal in 2019-2020.
- ✓ The Town continued work on the Canal Dredging Project after 4 years of studies. After having to redesign our scope twice, and pulling all of the necessary permits, the Town began dredging in August 2019.
- ✓ Received over \$65,000 in FEMA grant dollars for the installation of automatic transfer switches to two of the Town's pump stations
- ✓ Completed the design of the Center Island Pump Station and applied for funding. The next step will be submitting a request for proposals.

Other Significant Advancements:

- ✓ The Police Department underwent a review by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation to maintain its accreditation as a department.
- ✓ For the first time in 13 years, the Town performed a full audit of our current assets, facilities and property insurance increasing our insured value from \$2.1-million to \$4.3-million.
- ✓ Completed a \$60,000 curbs and gutters replacement project.
- ✓ Administration has been meeting with various financial institutions to look at different funding opportunities to move forward with the Civic Center Masterplan.
- ✓ The Town held over **80 events** for the enjoyment of residents and to allow for stronger relationships amongst neighbors and friends.
- ✓ Submitting funding request for the State for an Emergency Operations Center/Bunker.
- ✓ Negotiated the contract renewal for landscape and irrigation maintenance with Mainguy Landscape, Inc. saving the Town approximately 4% from the previous contract, while surrounding cities saw anywhere from a 37% to 42% increase in their total landscaping costs.

- ✓ The Town issued its first residents guide – to provide all of the important information concerning Town Hall, the rules of the Town and contacts and answers to frequently asked questions in one place.
- ✓ The Town saw added residential growth in F/Y 2018-2019 issuing 5 Residential Certificates of Occupancy (“COs”) , 3 Temporary Certificates of Occupancy (“TCOs”) and 1 (CC’s) Certificate of Completions (Additions and Remodels).
- ✓ Held an independent resident survey during the election to measure the pulse and feel of the community. 90% of residents surveyed felt that the Administration was responsive in adequately representing the needs of the community, and the projected proposals were in line with the needs of the residents.
- ✓ Evaluating and developing the possibility of the Town becoming an AT&T Smarter City.
- ✓ Added more beach furniture with the addition of four new picnic tables and chaise lounges for the beach pavilion.
- ✓ The website began the process of becoming ADA compliance. Full compliance is anticipated in 2020.
- ✓ Town staff received over 15 resident water bill issues and case managed the matters along with the City of North Miami Beach Water Department.
- ✓ The Town continued weekly beach sampling to test the Town’s waters for bacteria.
- ✓ The Town provided the venue for the League of Women’s Voters to host a candidate debate prior to the General Election. This was the first time a candidate debate was held in Town in over ten years.
- ✓ The Town has continued enforcing the Town’s Code(s) through compliance and focused on properties that have been neglected though the years. We have collected over \$22,000 in violations from properties that were deemed blighted.
- ✓ The Town maintained its Tree City USA designation in recognition of its lush landscaping and ample open spaces
- ✓ The Golden Beach Police held a boating safety class for residents for the fourth year in a row.
- ✓ The budget as a business plan, outlining goals and measures that govern Town affairs, has attained the esteemed “Distinguished Budget Award” for the tenth year in a row.

- ✓ The Town currently has 33 Active Projects, 20 of which are New Homes and 13 are Additions/Remodels.
- ✓ The Town reinstated the youth programming initiative providing fun activities for the youth of the Town during Winter and Spring break from school as well as adding additional programming during the summer break.
- ✓ Additional summer programming for the whole family to enjoy included the continued food truck initiative – providing residents with free food truck snacks every weekend in August and September.
- ✓ The Town continued to provide residents with a number of free-of-charge services, such as food and sodas on the beach during a number of holidays, Valentine’s Day “candy-grams” delivered right to residents’ doorsteps, and fully catered get-to-know your neighbor events.
- ✓ The Town’s Public Works department has also taken on an active role in supplying extra assistance to residents (i.e. spraying the Town for mosquitoes, adding chlorine tablets to all standing water, pumping pooling water out of residences, etc.)
- ✓ As an “end of summer/back to school” program, food and drinks were offered at the Beach Pavilion, every other weekend during the months of July and August.
- ✓ The Police Department once again held its back to school campaign seeing students off in the morning of the first day of school with lunch boxes filled with nutritious treats and other goodies.

At the forefront of how we govern is maintaining our capital projects, aesthetic appeal of our open spaces and parks, and the quality of life for our residents and employees.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Mayor and members of the Town Council for your selfless dedication to the Town and continued support of my administration.

A municipal government cannot properly function without a lot of assistance and dedication from the Department Directors and their staffs. I am very proud of the efforts of our employees who continue to offer the highest quality of services. I am fortunate to be a part of a team that is committed to excellence and exemplary public service of the highest ethical standard.

Thank you for trusting me to serve as your Town Manager and allowing me to be a part of your family. And like many families, we may not always agree on things, but the one thing we all share is our love for the Town of Golden Beach.

Know that Golden Beach has always been, and continues to be my priority!